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PROJECT RED BOOK

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AUSTRALIAN UFOs PRE 1947 Part 3

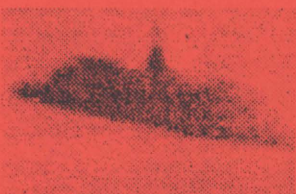
THE JENNY RANGLES COLUMN

ASKIN' BOLLOXINSKI

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"Jar-Jar Binks makes the Ewoks look like f*****g Shaft!"

THE VIEW FROM BRITAIN

THE JENNY RANGLES COLUMN

(Originally published in *The MUFON JOURNAL*, March 2001)

(Editor's note :Please bear in mind the original date of publication. YUFOS extends its thanks to Jenny & to Dwight Connely, editor of *The MUFON Journal*, for permission to reproduce this work.)

An interesting debate going on in the UK right now concerns the question of just who might pilot the UFOs, assuming that any of these are craft being flown by intelligent occupants. That conclusion - of course - is much less of a given in Britain than it may be in the US, because many British researchers are fervently skeptical of the idea that UFOs exist beyond a few unknown natural phenomena and a whole host of misperceptions. Indeed large swathes of the UFO community on my side of the Atlantic are probably closer in nature to CSICOP - the skeptics organisation - than to mainstream UFO belief elsewhere.

However, even with those who believe that there are some cases with a strong argument in favour of an intelligent species at work, the assumption that this intelligence is therefore from another planet is often rather muted.

One idea that has been gaining ground of late has been the possibility that time travellers (not aliens) may be the ones that have landed. That these craft are in fact coming to us from our own future.

Back from the future:

This might seem a faintly absurd idea when you match the sightings of exotic alien entities sometimes reported against the prospect that human beings (all be it ones from our future) are what is being seen. But in reality, one of the major problems that exobiologists often have with UFO reports is that the entities that get witnessed are basically too human. With a few exceptions many of the occupants that are seen could walk the streets without attracting undue attention and in some cases (such as Men in Black encounters) that is what they even claim to have done!

That caveat does not merely apply to their physical description - since a skeletal structure and bi focal eyes are a common theme in the animal world and might well be a universal pattern that nature has simply found to work

and so would repeat across many solar systems. But more specifically the problem stems from the human behaviour of these aliens. They seem to display the same kind of thinking and logic as we do - which is difficult to square with animal behaviour on earth, where, for example, we struggle to comprehend an intelligent species such as the dolphins.

Of course, many of these difficulties disappear if we accept that we are dealing with a visit from our own descendants who are coming back from the future. Even if over the coming centuries evolution changes us then there will be something recognisably human about the denizens of earth from an age when time machines might have become commonplace.

Designing a time machine:

But is it ever going to be possible to build a time machine ? Surprisingly this is a question more and more physicists are answering in the affirmative - partly because there is actually nothing in the laws of physics to debar the transfer of information through time and much in our comprehension of quantum physics and relativity that indicates this is even quite likely.

Moreover, if you look at the physics of space-time as we understand it and examine its considerations about the possibility of time travel you can come up with a blueprint for what a time machine ought to look like and to do as well as what sort of side effects it might generate.

Here are some of the conclusions that have been fascinating British UFOlogists of late.

: A time machine would need to fly into earth orbit - because time shifting in the vacuum of space, where planetary motions can be calculated very precisely creates the safest environment in which to do this. Time jumping in a location where events are completely unpredictable is much more risky. Imagine the

consequences of 'jumping' onto a busy freeway!

: A time machine will require considerable energy transfer, creating a massive drain on the surroundings and probably producing atmospheric distortions such as ionization. It has even been calculated by quantum physicists that to time shift a vortex shaped field is likely to be created around the vehicle.

: Within the region of space that is involved in time shifting a number of side effects will result. These include distortions of gravity and spatial anomalies, not to mention disturbances in the rate of flow of time.

Furthermore, if we assume that human beings from a future era when a time machine has been perfected wish to travel back into the present day they would almost certainly be constrained to do so as observers, not active participants, since the risk of interference in the time-line - literally changing the future (or their past) could be considerable.

So we would expect to look for travellers who did not interfere, were very circumspect about what they said to anyone that they met, who were keenly observant of human beings and yet who used some kind of contemporary mythology as a cloak that helps them to integrate into the community. The knowledge that people had seen UFOs during this time period and believed them to be alien visitors would - to any traveller from the future - be part of their history. They could use this knowledge as a convenient way to disguise their true purpose. Just as we might camouflage ourselves in the jungle in order to observe wild animals without arousing their suspicions.

In search of future historians:

When you look at these theoretical conclusions in the light of the UFO evidence a fascinating pattern soon emerges.

Yes, indeed, UFOs appear as craft that come down low or land - and primarily seem to observe and study. They leave our environment by heading vertically upwards towards earth orbit and yet are not seemingly designed as interplanetary machines. They are more like 'shuttle craft' in appearance - although if they were shuttling to some space faring vessel in earth orbit then we would

surely be aware of its presence and we never are.

So where else are these 'shuttle craft' going to when they fly upwards? And is it relevant that they are often seen to simply disappear or fade away as if they 'phase' out of existence rather than physically fly away somewhere like a rocket?

There are also many cases in the UFO records where physical side effects of the type here suggested to accompany a hypothetical time machine do occur. Think of cases such as the Mundrabilla, Australia, encounter in January 1988 - where a car was apparently pulled off the road by a vortex like glow that created a gravity anomaly effect.

Indeed, the Rendlesham Forest encounters (see last month) are another example because there were claims that time and space were seriously distorted in close proximity to the UFO. Time slowed, space seemed to expand. In fact there were relativity like side effects generated by this UFO that seem to have been connected with an energy field that was being produced. One that caused the witnesses skins to tingle and hair to stand on end.

The closer you look at the data base of UFO encounters the more you find cases which have effects or descriptions that match this scenario of a time machine.

But ultimately, the possibility boils down to one simple thought. If time travel ever becomes a reality - no matter when that is in the future - we would expect our descendants to be interested in returning to visit this era of major scientific progress and space exploration. What may well go down as a 'golden age', in fact.

So if there are no time travellers out there right now it presumably means that time travel will forever be outlawed.

As things stand science suggests that ought not to be the case and so looking for signs of time machines within our midst becomes a totally legitimate pursuit. What better place to look than the UFO evidence? Perhaps time travellers were here all along and we just did not realise that fact.

EARLY AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL ENCOUNTERS (part three)

BY BILL CHALKER

Written & © Bill Chalker, 1997

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THE WAVE OF 1909

The wave began during July, 1909, in New Zealand, with numerous sightings of unusual nocturnal lights and "airships" seen both during the day and at night. The sightings initially appeared to be most intense over the southern end of the South Island of New Zealand. In the following weeks the reports appeared to move northwards, and eventually by August, Australia also fell under the grip of "aerialitis."

Like many of the modern UFO waves, there were some striking cases set against a background of misinterpretations, sensationalism and, to a lesser extent, outright fraud.

One of the earliest, interesting "airship" reports of the wave occurred at about noon, on July 23rd, when a woman and several schoolchildren at Kelso claimed to have observed an "airship".

Initially it was reported that a "man" was observed sitting in the craft. This was not confirmed in later retelling. The media accounts of the day even carried sketches of the "Kelso airship" attributed to some of the school children allegedly involved.

It should be noted that the local children were exposed to fictional "airship" stories via a children's magazine *Chums*, namely the story "The Peril of the Motherland". The *Evening Star* of July 30th gave the following account of the Kelso visitation:

"Mrs Russell, evidently the only adult who saw the phenomena, said she was going down towards the station about 12 o'clock when she saw a streak of blackness shoot over the hill on the left and apparently come straight towards her. Then it suddenly turned and swerved away over some trees out of her sight. She was very frightened when she saw it, as she had been ill. In appearance it was just like a boat.

"It was black in colour. She saw it for just a few minutes. It was travelling very fast at first, but when it turned, it came lower and went somewhat slower. She was very flustered as she thought the end of the world had come."

Years later some of the children reported that the story was a hoax that had got out of hand. It is difficult to assess these apparent recantations, since in part they looked like attempts to deflect persistent media interest, and yet other statements suggest fabrication or embellishments by the journalist who originally wrote the story.

Most of information reported years after the incident tends to point towards the Kelso airship being a lot of hot air kept aloft by contemporary fascination with the concurrent "urban myths" of "secret inventors" and "invasion" by the German or "yellow" peril. Confirmed pioneer aircraft flights did not get off the ground for the first time until 1909 in Australia.

In New Zealand the story was similar, with the first flight generally recognised as taking place in 1911, but with some evidence supporting successful short distance flights as early as 1903 or 1904. However none of these efforts were of the "secret inventor" genre nor were any of them in the aeronautical class of the alleged airships of 1909.

We have seen that an Australian surveyor, one Frederick William Birmingham, pondered deeply the mystery of an alien "machine to go through the air" in 1868. Another surveyor, this time in New Zealand, one Robert Grigor of Balclutha, in a letter to the *Otago Daily Times*, July 29th, 1909, provided a fascinating speculation on "atomic powered spaceships" and endowed a Martian origin theory with a more benevolent anthropomorphic image, than that of H.G. Well's classic science fiction tale of Martian invasion, *War of the Worlds* first published in 1898:

"In Holy Writ we are told that God created man in His own image. Is it not reasonable to suppose, with this high ideal before us, that they are men of superior intellect, endowed with wisdom and knowledge acquired in long generations through which they have progressed, and that they have been able to solve some of the natural mysteries which we have as yet been unable to grasp

(which sounds remarkably like the UFO contactee credo that was to infest and damage the credibility of the UFO subject in the 1950s and 60s - B.C.).

"We will presume that they have been able to make a machine capable of going through space - say, an airtight cylinder supplied with compressed air from their own atmosphere, capable of keeping them alive for an indefinite period with radium as a motive power and for light. They arrive in our atmosphere in the vicinity of New Zealand, and are hovering around to get accustomed to our atmosphere. They see the electric light at Kaitangata and the lights about the Waikaka dredges and Matura, and they are seen at Kelso and at Invercargill, which is probably the largest town they have as yet been able to discover. They seem to be able to live at an altitude of 3,000 feet or 4,000 feet and their first landing will certainly be at that height on some of our high lands."

Thomas Robertson, a baker, reported seeing a large boat shaped object, with three lights, flying over Oamaru, near Sumpter's Hill, at 3 am on August 2nd. The moon in the west was reportedly clearly illuminating the vessel. It appeared to have two figures inside it. The *North Otago Times* of August 4th, reported that the object disappeared in the direction of Weston at "a fast rate".

Several intriguing accounts, that have not been accurately dated, bear mention. The *Bruce Herald* of August 2nd, carried a reference to the *Clutha Free Press* receiving a letter from a correspondent who claimed an "airship" had landed at Port Molyneux. He reported that some of the occupants, whom he took to be Japanese, had emerged and engaged him in conversation. Unfortunately no copies of the *Clutha Free Press* survive to confirm any further details of the tale.

The *Nelson Evening Mail* reported that on about August 6th, a fisherman at Marlborough Sounds claimed to have been attacked by an airship. He alleged that it was flying low when first observed. When it was overhead the occupants threw "missiles" at him which hissed as they hit the water and fizzed before

sinking. This may have been more a case of implied "occupants" than ones actually observed.

Whatever the actual stimuli were for these reports there was even, way back in 1909, a minority view that was prepared to invest in the reports, perhaps somewhat cynically, an "alien invaders" explanation. "W.H.T.", a correspondent with the *Southland Daily News*, of August 4th, 1909, clearly with tongue firmly in cheek, wrote:

"The inventor of a new flying machine would not be likely to experiment with it in the dark rather than in the daytime, nor could the owner of such a machine find any pleasure in aerial locomotion on cold winter nights.

"An aerial invasion of New Zealand by Germans or Japs is not probable, and in any case the invaders would have attacked Wellington or Dunedin (large towns - B.C.) before appearing at Cromwell or Kaitangia. It seems to me more likely to be the beginning of an invasion from Mars. Water being scarce on that planet, the Martians are...looking out for a new world to inhabit; and New Zealand being a conspicuous object on our globe, they will probably attack us first.

"The presence of a dead squid on the beach at Burkes a few days ago is fairly conclusive evidence that if that is not a Martian invasion it is at all events a serious reconnaissance from that planet. It is well known that in Mars the highest development of the brain has been in Octopoids, and to me it is quite evident that one of our invaders fell out of the Martian airship when crossing Otago Harbour, and being an indifferent swimmer was drowned, and washed ashore at Burkes. This is clearly a case for the Defence Department."

Certainly W.H.T.'s witty missive owes much to H.G. Wells' classic science fiction tale of Martian invasion, *War of the Worlds*, first published in 1898.

Even though such speculations owe more to early science fiction, the fact that there were reports of "airship operators" suggests they were not unreasonable contemporary speculations.

Two men working on the Syndicate No. 2 dredge on a river in the Waikaka Valley, a few miles north of Gore, in New Zealand, got an excellent view of what was dubbed "the nocturnal mystery of the air." At 5 am, on July 30th, the men saw it descend out of the mist. The object had a light at both ends. Inside two

figures could be plainly observed. The dredge winchman, Mr. F. Green, said the object rose and fell like a bird. It appeared to be a narrow boat-shaped aerial craft, that circled the dredge several times quite closely over a period of several minutes. The "airship" made "curious and seemingly impossible manoeuvres", apparently travelling at speed, then suddenly decelerating. Eventually it disappeared into the mist, in the direction of Otakarama, leaving behind a curious yellow glare.

The *Hawkes Bay Herald* of August 6th, 1909, carried the following account of an observation of "airship operators" on August 3rd:

"A circumstantial story is being early discussed in Waipawa of the seeing of an airship by a man on Tuesday night. He was riding near the racecourse and his horse became restive. He discovered the cause was a large torpedo-shaped structure passing over his head. The airship, he states, was painted grey and three persons were visible, one of whom shouted out to him in an unknown tongue. The ship rose to a great height, showing lights at prow and stern, and, after circling around, disappeared behind a hill.

"On the same night another resident saw a ship-like structure high in the air, which emitted a loud humming sound. The ship was so high that it appeared only a yard or so long. A faint light came from the ship. Another resident asked her husband about the same hour that night, 'What is that humming noise?'"

The first Australian reports of 1909 apparently came from Goulburn, NSW, on August 5th, when 3 or 4 residents of North Goulburn, reported seeing a bright moving blue light in the northern sky. The *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Daily Telegraph* of August 10th and 11th respectively reported the visitation. "It moved to Governor's Hill, swerved and passed over the range to the east." The reports at Goulburn continued for the next 5 nights. The mystery light was described as big as "a motor car lamp."

On August 7th, at about 10.30 pm, 4 young men, at the brick kilns near the North Goulburn railway station, saw the light. "It was pale blue in colour. The brightness of the light attracted the youth's attention. Only the light was seen, their being nothing to show the presence of a supporting body.

"The light was extremely brilliant. It came from behind the eastern ranges, and after

ascending a considerable height, circled round in the direction from which it had come."

On August 8th, "the light made its appearance from the south (at about 7.30 pm) travelling once again towards Governor's Hill, inclining thence towards the east and returning back to the south."

Reports of the "nocturnal mystery of the air" began to flood in from all over Australia. The Australian wave was never as compelling as the "air ship" wave that immediately preceded it in New Zealand. At the time the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, particularly prominent in the west north west night sky, generated many reports.

One of the more substantial Australian reports occurred at about eleven o'clock at night on August 13th, in Glen Innes, when "several responsible residents described an object like a balloon moving in a northerly direction. A night glass was obtained and the object was found to be shaped like an inverted top. The lower portion was lighted, and as the body revolved a light like a small flashlight kept turning on the land beneath. The upper portion was in darkness and the object continued drifting in a northerly direction".

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* of August 13th, 1909, reported:

"The taniuha of the ancient Maori and the tiger of Tantanoola, whose allegedly fearsome and phantom like forms are said to have flashed before human vision from time to time are in shadow just now. The talk is of "those mysterious lights" reported first from New Zealand and later from various points of the country in this state."

However by the middle of August the Australian reports seemed to stop as quickly as they had begun.

As if to rekindle speculation about the existence of an "airship" down under, a number of reports occurred in New Zealand, in early September, 1909. On September 1st, at 4.30 pm, two well known Gore residents observed a cigar shaped object with a "car" attached, drifting over the Tapanui Hills. It gradually disappeared over the horizon towards Kelso. A few days later, the "airship" apparently appeared for the last time. The Gore correspondent of the *Southland Times* reported:

"Between 5.45 and 6.15 pm, it appeared in view, coming over the hills on the eastern side of the town

Otarai. It apparently sailed backwards and forwards at a great pace and, turning around, gradually disappeared over the same hills, although it was subsequently seen in the direction of the Gore race course.

"The children of a prominent resident also saw it, and stated that it was cigar-shaped....Reliable testimony to the sight is also borne by a party of golfers who were on their way home from the golf links when they saw it."

A "mystery airship" was observed at Minderoo Station, near Onslow, Western Australia, on October 25th, 1909. Mrs. A.J. Roe, wife of the station manager, was the first to spot the object. She stated, "It looked compact, like a dirigible balloon, but appeared to be squarer and more like an aeroplane. The sun shone on it, and flashes came from it, as though reflected from something revolving, or from metal work." Three station hands also saw the UFO.

1920

STRANGE LIGHTS AND VANISHINGS

The official files do not confirm military activity before 1950, however research has confirmed involvement by the military, albeit in some cases, cursory in nature, back as far as 1920. The Navy submarine depot ship, the *Platypus*, was involved in the search for a missing schooner, the *Amelia J*, in Bass Strait. Mystery lights, thought at the time to be "evidently rockets", were observed. Two aircraft left the flying training school and aircraft depot at Point Cook to join in the investigation.

One was piloted by a Major Anderson and the other by Captain W.J. Stutt -- an instructor for the NSW Government Aviation school at Richmond (a forerunner to the Richmond RAAF base, established soon after the birth of the RAAF in 1921). Stutt and his mechanic, Sergeant Dalzell, were last seen by Major Anderson flying into a large cloud. Their plane and the schooner were never found.

Fifty eight years later the Bass Strait became the centre of another extraordinary plane/pilot disappearance, namely the Valentich affair of 1978.

1927

AN EARLY VISITOR

Fernvale, a small village in north eastern New South Wales played host to a bizarre procession of usual phenomena during a few short weeks in 1927. I investigated the story between 1985 and 1986, interviewing the main reporting witness, who was a 10 year old boy at the time of the events, and his younger sister, who was also present.

The affair began with the arrival of a dancing aerial light. Over several nights it returned for repeat performances. The property cattle were apparently disturbed by the aerial apparition. One cow went beserk and had to be put down.

The light returned on the following night, and once again the cows were very disturbed. On the third night the light apparently did not appear, however the cow herd were terribly disturbed.

In the morning 3 cows were found dead, all looking as if they had been "scared to death." Neighbours had similar experiences. A neighbour was terrified by an "apparition", while walking home. The reporting witness was soon to see the nature of this "apparition."

Three pigs kept in a special fattening sty were apparently attacked by a mystery intruder. Two of them were found dead, with puncture marks on their necks and scratches and puncture marks over their bodies. The other pig was missing. There was no evidence of it having broken out, and besides, the railings of the sty were too high for it to get out.

An unsuccessful day long search ended with the bizarre discovery of a huge patch of blood with tell-tale pigs hair present, just some 150 yards away from the cow yards. The cows were in a frenzy. No further evidence of the missing pig was found.

One night during this period, the boy (the reporting witness) was awoken by strange night noises, unlike any he had heard before. He told his parents but by then the noises had stopped, and it was put down to his imagination. The noises return on the next night, this time much louder. The boy's parents also heard the noise, and were unnerved by it. The windows and doors were closed, however in the morning footprints like those of a "wellington boot tread" were found leading

from the front door through to the back. Both doors were open!

The nocturnal light visitations continued for a while but soon the novelty wore off and the family stopped looking out for it. However one night the boy and his older brother returning from a night of cards with neighbours witnessed an extraordinary brightly lit, flying object travel through the valley, light up the whole area, turn slightly following the valley contours, and finally come to rest on a hill. The object glowed for some time on the ground.

Eventually there was darkness. The boys investigated in the morning, confirming the presence of a complete circle of scorched grass, about 30 feet in diameter, where the object had been seen to land. The site was apparent as a brown area amongst the green grass. Indeed the neighbours where the boys had played cards also had seen the light landing. They too had come to the site to see what had been there.

The boy also reported seeing a huge bird sitting in a tree, while on his way to school. It seemed impossibly large, but was gone by the time he had fetched his teacher. When he told his parents, they told him that the nocturnal "apparition" that had so terrified one of their neighbours had been a "huge bird" that had "appeared out of the darkness", ambling towards him and flapping its wings.

It was also recalled that during the two nights of strange night noises there was a strong smell of poultry, and the boy had found, near the house, 2 big feathers, which were unlike those of any bird he had seen. While coming off a nearby mountain the brothers also saw 2 giant birds soaring overhead. They were bigger than any bird they had ever seen, ostensibly at least 3 or 4 times bigger than a wedged tail eagle.

The "birds" seemed to be gliding with wings outstretched. The boy recollected, "They were monsters... making sounds like unintelligible conversation." One of the boys' sisters and a parent had also seen "a huge big bird" hopping down the hill (near the house) with its wings flapping."

On another night, again from the house, they had seen "a dull type of a light - a round thing" travelling leisurely across the sky. Apparently other people in the area also reported sightings of "big birds"!

One other puzzling event was described. One night the family had gone to neighbours. The oldest son had remained behind at the house. "A strange man" dressed in an incongruous "white suit" arrived at the neighbours house. Everyone thought he was with the others. He said nothing and only stayed for a short time.

Back at the house, the oldest son was in darkness. He heard a noise in the house, and sang out, "Who is there!" The boy got out of bed in time to see someone in a white suit disappearing into the darkness! The ground between the two neighbours was tricky, even more so on a pitch black night. There were 2 large creeks, that were crossed at certain points by planks, and a big stream, that were navigated by picking ones way steadily over a fallen tree trunk - no easy matter for a stranger at night! The stranger was never seen or heard of again. One wonders if he was wearing wellington type boots and kept an unusually large aviary!

The "visitors" came to the Fernvale area in 1927 drawing the locals inexorably into a flirtation with an antipodean version of the Twilight Zone. The experience became an enduring mystery that puzzled and haunted the reporting witness for some sixty years. The "visitors" had brought to Fernvale a bizarre, and at times, terrifying mystery, that appears to echo an enigma that would begin to hold sway over mankind some two decades later.

(Continued in the next issue)

BOOK REVIEWS

By NIKKI WRIGHT (YUFOS)

TITLE: *THE A. T. FACTOR: PIECE FOR A JIGSAW PART III*

AUTHOR: Leonard G. Cramp

PUBLISHER: Adventures Unlimited
ISBN 0-932813-92-5

PRICE: \$16.00 (amazon.co.uk £11.81 + P&P)

Leonard Cramp has done it again. He has a nice way of injecting a bit of fresh air into a subject, which at times can get a bit repetitive and stretched out of focus.

You want PROOF! It's all there, because this man most definitely does his homework. A slightly more personal book than his previous three (see end of text) but equally as informative and thought provoking.

The first couple of parts in the book has some intriguing alien/paranormal related incidents which the author has been un/fortunate enough to encounter throughout his life. He also tells about disappearing research material and a publishing company that seems to have some relation to the Philadelphia Experiment (now you see me, now you don't, oh look I'm back again). All very strange, but believe me that's nothing. All this is mingled with a brief insight into his family life and his very impressive professional background.

If a means of transport can be made more environmentally friendly, more efficient, more economical Cramp is your man.

There is everything in this book, hang-gliders, sailboats, various VTOL vehicles, hovercraft, his Hoverplane (revolutionary transport concept) which has application ranges from small ultra-light sports craft (nice!) to heavy load carrying rough terrain transport, his super-cars (mmm! well you'll have to take a look yourself), not forgetting the anti-gravity applications, the list goes on. All this is backed up with an abundance of photos, diagrams, news cuttings and various articles.

This man is a self taught scientist (with quite a large hint of genius) and tries to get it across on several occasions that if he can do it so can

you, and urges someone to take up and continue his work (which has mainly been done with no financial backing).

Well maybe if certain members of our government were actually in our country long enough (Yes Mr. Blair you would be a start) and open their eyes to the UK's real assets (eg Mr. Cramp), I'm sure he would have got the dome for a fraction of the cost and more than likely some form of practical use for the blasted thing.

I would like to point out that I wrote this before I read Kate Miller's review (which was also good) in *UFO Magazine* (UK). I'm sorry if any of it is too repetitive (pot calling the kettle black!), but I have read the book also (honest), and I thought what the ****. So if you've any complaints send them to Dave Baker because he should never have printed it in the first place. Sorry Dave!

Anyway, a fascinating work of art. A must for all collections. If you haven't already got the three previous books by the author they are well worth the investment.

Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer, 1954, T. Werner Laurie (some copies on the abebooks.com (numerous secondhand book shops worldwide) web site.)

Piece for a Jigsaw, 1966, Somerton Publishing Co. Ltd.

Piece for a Jigsaw, reprint 1996 Adventures Unlimited.

The Cosmic Matrix: Piece for a Jigsaw Part II, 1999, Adventures Unlimited.

You can also check out
www.leonardcramp.x5g.com.

He now has four videos to buy (£16.99 each) on the above related topics. There is also some interesting links.

A five star thumbs up.

TITLE: THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

AUTHOR: John A. Keel

PUBLISHER: Hodder and Stoughton
IBBN 0-340-82446-8

PRICE £6.99 (amazon.co.uk. £5.59 +
P&P)

There was so much I was going to write about this book, until I read the final four pages (afterword by John A. Keel, August 2001). Keel is a cheated, broken man, (I don't mean this in a nasty or derogatory way), but far too many "PEOPLE" have played games with this mans life. (SHAME ON YOU!) This research has really taken its toll.

He has studied these creatures for 25 years, has travelled from Tibet to West Virginia and has come to reject the ET hypothesis, his concept is of "ultraterrestrials" (beings and forces which co-exist with us but are on another time frame, a different state of energy).

The book itself, which was first published in the UK in 1975 as *Visitors From Space*, Panther Books, is a strange and disturbing account of events which John Keel ended up in the middle of in 1966. It centred around a small town in West Virginia called Point Pleasant. (but pleasant it is not!) These poor people have been plagued by all sorts of wierd and *not* wonderful goings on.

Point Pleasant was manufacturing explosives during WWII, and is riddled with miles of underground tunnels which link camouflaged buildings and factories. (Very handy!)

West Virginia was apparently the only place in North America that the Native Indians didn't inhabit, even though the land is fertile, rich in game and heavily wooded. What the hell did they know?

In 1966 this little town had a population of 6,000 people, 22 churches and NO barrooms - and they think the Mothman is weird. (Sorry! Couldn't help that one.)

Over 100 people in the winter of 1966 saw this huge grey man-shaped creature, with its fiercely glowing red eyes (with hypnotic effect), a 10 ft. wingspan that unfolds from behind its back, and takes off straight up, like a helicopter (VTOL man). This Mothman

absolutely terrified these people, but he was only one of the unwanted phenomena that hounded Point Pleasant.

By the way, this thing was not exclusive to the USA, it was seen in Kent, England in November, 1963.

There were many peculiar goings-on; metallic sounding voices and beeping on the telephone lines; strange garbled radio signals (source: undetermined); tapping out messages similar to morse code; odd looking strangers with breathing difficulties, (which seemed to be remedied by a large yellow pill?), that went around confusing and deceiving as many as possible in their wake; flying saucers; coloured lights; missing pets and cattle; not to mention the dictated predictions, and an absolutely devastating tragedy just to top things off.

As I have just come out of hospital, it hasn't been possible for me to go to the cinema to review the film, so, I asked some friends to do the honour for me. They loved it. They said it starts off good, gets a bit slow towards the middle, but has a great ending. I don't think it's fair for me to elaborate on this as I have no first hand knowledge.

So, the book gets an 8 out of 10.

NEXT MEETING

YUFOS presents

DARREN SWINDELLS

Of

Sheffield Astronomical Society

on

Tuesday, 14 May 2002

7:00pm – 10:00pm

at

THE MOSELEY'S ARMS

West Bar,
Sheffield City Centre

15 REASONS WHY SCIENCE SHOULD RE-EXAMINE THE UFO PHENOMENON (WITHOUT EVER MENTIONING ALIENS)

by Chris Rutkowski

I shouldn't have been surprised, but I was; scientists have dismissed the latest Canadian UFO Survey without bothering to read and understand its analyses of UFO data.

We collected UFO reports from a variety of agencies, including civilian UFO groups, the Internet and also government records, all for the year 2001. We have been doing so for 12 years, and each year have noted a slight increase in the number of UFO reports. Last year, however, we found a huge increase: 42% over the previous year. We reported our findings and published our data (www.geocities.com/aristotl.geo).

We made no assumptions, but merely reported the data and noted correlations and trends. We emphasized that UFO reports do not mean alien visitation, and in our report, we were reporting observational data only. In other words, we were highly objective in our approach.

There was wide media coverage of the study, but two debunkers reacted very strangely. One mocked the study of "alien spacecraft," which suggests he didn't read the report itself. The other dismissed the study's results by saying that he knew for a fact that UFO reports are actually decreasing, not increasing. Of course, he did not cite his reference or source for that fact.

That shouldn't surprise me, but it did. Perhaps I was expecting scientists to use the data and the rigorous, statistical study as a basis for forming their own opinions.

At any rate, I thought about how the scientific community seems predisposed against ufology because of its perceived connection to aliens. That's too bad, because even without the possibility of aliens as an explanation, there are still many reasons why UFOs are worthy of scientific study, contrary to Condon.

1) Earthquake Lights

Geophysicists have been examining reports of luminous phenomena associated with major seismic events. The mechanism for these odd lights is not fully understood, and there are many questions about their propagation, energy source and movement. Many UFOs are seen near seismically active areas, including those classified as nocturnal lights. Are these actually earthquake lights in disguise?

If these lights are reported as UFOs, then they may be related to earthquake prediction. One cannot underestimate the importance of studying possible earthquake precursors.

2) Earthquake Prediction

This idea follows from #1, but is quite a separate issue. Researchers of earthquake precursors have noted very disparate phenomena as possible indicators of impending seismic events. These include sudden increases in the number of lost pets, electrical interference and also unusual lights in the sky.

3) Tectonic Strain Theory

Much has been made of Michael Persinger's TST concept that underground crustal strain causes electromagnetic fields which either: a) affect the brain directly and cause people to think they have been abducted by aliens, or b) create luminous phenomena that are perceived as UFOs by unsuspecting witnesses.

Curiously, the TST seems to have few supporters outside of Persinger's Laurentian University laboratory. Other scientists should independently test the TST for its viability. After all, if Persinger is right, the TST has implications well beyond UFOs.

4) Ball Lightning

This is another poorly understood and rarely observed natural phenomenon. Some UFO cases may be due to ball lightning discharges. It is only through a detailed examination of UFO data that possible candidates for ball lightning can be located. Geophysicists should be gathering UFO data as a matter of course, trying to learn if plasma discharges can be found often in nature.

5) Dissociative Disorders

Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) has been described in the psychological literature as a tendency to have periods of time missing from one's life. This has been evoked to explain UFO abductions. But what really occurs in DID? How widespread is "tuning out" in our society? Surely this has implications in many professions.

6) Fantasy-Prone Personality

This psychological condition is sometimes cited as an explanation for abduction experiences. People with such personalities have a tendency to imagine elaborate scenarios and have, literally, "flights of fancy" during their waking hours. How prevalent is this trait, and what are the implications in our culture?

7) False Memory Syndrome

This condition is the subject of intense debate. Victims of the FMS defence in a court of law vigorously oppose its use on the grounds that there is no incontrovertible evidence that it exists at all. However, FMS proponents argue that it is a profoundly important phenomenon that may bring criminals to justice.

8) Perceptual Ability

Why do people report that stationary night-time lights such as stars and planets are actually "dancing" and "jumping around?" While autokinesis and autostasis are well-known to perceptual psychologists, much more study on people's abilities to judge distance, altitude and movement would be useful.

9) Media Influence

Ever since Strentz's thesis on how newspaper reporting can create a UFO flap, the media has always been suspect in its coverage of the subject. We can still wonder, however, how the advent of tabloid TV and UFO-themed programs like the *X-Files* are affecting public opinion in this field. And recently, if newspapers are carrying fewer UFO sightings as news, why are there more UFO reports? (Or are there?)

10) Group Behaviour

What, exactly, are the dynamics of UFO reporting? Can one person's sighting and subsequent report really become contagious and influence others to report banal phenomena as something more mysterious?

11) Aerospace Development

If, as many believe, UFOs represent observations of secret tests of highly advanced technology, then records of such observations can provide information to avionics experts as to what and where such technology is under development. Aviation insiders have long been using data from professional aircraft spotters to determine the characteristics of aircraft under development.

12) The search for meteorites is very important to geologists and xenobiologists. Astronomers and meteoriticists await reports of brilliant fireballs in the hope that a recovery may lead to an important find. Some countries have used all-sky cameras to monitor bolides and meteors in order to assist meteorite hunters in their quest for cosmic debris.

13) Epilepsy Research

It has been suggested that some abductees have actually experienced petit mal or even grand mal events and interpreted them as something more exotic. Are there any indicators for epilepsy or temporal lobe epilepsy that would unequivocally prove that some abduction experiences have this medical condition as the cause?

14) Psychopathology

(John) Mack and others insist that abductees are "normal" with respect to the rest of the population. That is, their MMPI and other psychological tests find them no different from those who have not claimed abduction experiences. Is this assertion true? Can independent tests on larger samples of the population support this contention?

Why is it that UFOs elicit such impassioned debate? Public opinion is highly polarized, and yet people's belief in the "reality" or "non-reality" of UFOs seems to be largely unchangeable. Why do skeptics and believers attack one another with such vigour when arguing their contentions on this subject? Why is a belief or disbelief in UFOs so similar to religious fundamentalism, unlike other subjects, which may seem less provocative?

Chris Rutkowski

15) Belief Systems

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

OUT OF THE SHADOWS: UFOS, THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE OFFICIAL COVER-UP

Published by Piatkus books, London, 23 May.

This book exposes for the first time the truth about official investigations into the UFO phenomenon. Following years of painstaking research we produce previously secret MoD files and the direct testimony of hitherto silent aircrew and witnesses. The evidence demonstrates that the MoD, politicians, high-ranking scientists and even the British Royal Family believed in UFOs, investigated them and found compelling evidence for their existence.

We reveal:

* New first-hand accounts of UFOs tracked by British radar and encountered by Allied aircrew during World War II.

*The role played by secret agents and military intelligence in the ghost rocket panic of 1946.

*A secret RAF operation to intercept a UFO over the East Coast of Britain six months before Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of flying saucers.

*The full story of the MoD's Flying Saucer Working Party, including the testimony of those who took part.

*UFO-radar alerts that triggered Britain's early

warning system at the height of international Cold War tensions.

*The amazing account of a USAF pilot ordered to "shoot down" a UFO intercepted over Britain in 1957.

These are just a tiny portion of the revelations to be found in the pages of Out of the Shadows. In the words of retired RAF test pilots, Wing Commanders Stan Hubbard and Frank Jolliffe:

"Our thanks, and that of the public at large, are due to David Clarke and Andy Roberts for bringing the subject of unidentified aerospace phenomena into the public view and for publicising the grossly ill-judged official policies that have kept it cloaked in the strictest secrecy for so many years. It is indeed high time the public learned the truth about this subject."

Anyone who requires further information about the above projects can contact the authors at aj.roberts@blueyonder.co.uk or visit: <http://www.flyingsaucery.com>

Andy Roberts & Dave Clarke

'They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers...'

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortune and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

NATIVES IN TWO NATIONS SPEAR OGOPOGO: MOVIE BENDS TO DEMANDS

(Joseph Brean, National Post, March 8, 2002)

The producers of a Hollywood movie about Ogopogo, a prehistoric monster said to inhabit Lake Okanagan in British Columbia, have agreed to drop all references to the legendary creature in deference to a local Indian band.

Barry Authors, the film's Canadian-born writer and executive producer, had already been forced to move shooting of the movie to New Zealand, but even there, controversy caught up with the project. It was stopped in its tracks when New Zealand's Maori natives refused the crew permission to film on their land, to express their solidarity with the B.C. Indians.

The Pentiction Indian Band has objected to the film since learning of it two years ago on the grounds that it appropriated a sacred part of their culture and spirituality.

Ogopogo is a legendary lake monster — like Scotland's Loch Ness monster — said to lurk in the depths of Lake Okanagan in south-central British Columbia.

The band argues that any film about the creature — thought to be akin to the prehistoric plesiosaur, if it actually exists — must remove all reference to the Okanagan, not use the name Ogopogo and fictionalize the creature's history.

"It's an international concern among indigenous people about the exploitation of spiritual entities and being and whatnot for commercial purposes. This is not an isolated incident," said Chief Stewart Phillip of the Pentiction band.

Mr. Authors, who works out of England, had asked the Maori for permission to film at about 10 sites in New Zealand's scenic Lakes District, and wants to set off a series of explosions on Lake Wakatipu for special effects.

These effects will involve a mechanical mock-up of Ogopogo, built at a cost of \$3-million by Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

But the Ngai Tahu Maori tribe said it refused the request, saying it supported the position of the Pentiction band.

According to Chief Phillip, Mr. Authors has agreed to change the script and remove the name Ogopogo. If this is the case, he said, he expects the Maori to drop their protest. "In the event that [the producers] change the name and make no reference whatsoever to Ogopogo, that is something that we would support," he said.

Mr. Authors, who was travelling to New Zealand for negotiations with Maori leaders, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The movie was originally to have been filmed in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley, but bad timing, an actors strike and production costs made that difficult.

Kim Todd, who was the producer of the movie when it briefly started shooting in Manitoba two years ago and who has produced films in New Zealand, said the producers of the Ogopogo film would do well to agree to the Pentiction band's request. "The very specific thing you are given is the right to walk on [Maori] land," she said. "That is a sacred right, and woe betide the American producers who have ignored this custom, because they have not been allowed back."

Arlene Gall, who has written books on Ogopogo and served as a consultant on the movie, said the producers should have filmed in the Okanagan Valley.

To the natives of the area, she said, the creature has always been known as Niataka or N'ha-aik, both of which mean "sacred creature of the water." The name Ogopogo is not a native word, she said, but was made up in jest at a meeting of the Vernon, B.C., board of trade in 1926.

A settlement is expected today.

HUNDREDS REPORT UFO SIGHTING IN YUGOSLAVIA (Ananova 7th March 2002)

Authorities are investigating after hundreds of people in a Montenegrin village reported seeing a cluster of giant UFOs.

People in Godijevo say they rushed out of their homes after hearing a series of loud blasts and saw huge illuminated objects seemingly hovering overhead.

Officials are investigating numerous recorded sightings, but have been unable to offer an explanation so far.

According to the newspaper Vijesti, many witnesses claim the UFOs changed shape before heading off into the sky and out of sight.

They couldn't tell how high in the night sky the lights were.

"I went outside after hearing a commotion and when I looked up into the night sky there were around twenty large luminous circles, it was as if a UFO was hovering over our heads. The sky must have been lit up for hundreds of metres," said Sead Hodzic.

Suggestions the lights may have come from nearby nightlife have been dismissed because there are no discos in the vicinity of Godijevo and little in the way of hi-tech facilities which could generate such lights.

SHAMED STAR'S ALIENS CLAIM (BBC 27 February, 2002)

A triple gold medallist who was kicked out of the Winter Olympics for failing a drugs test claims he is being told what to do by aliens.

Cross-country skier Johann Muehlelegg said the mysterious beings have had a profound effect on his life.

"I have seen them," he declared, before insisting he had not taken any drugs.

German-born Muehlelegg, 31, defected to Spain in 1999 – apparently on the instructions of the aliens.

He said: "I was contacted and told what to do by people from the other side.

"You might think it's funny but it has paid off. I'm now an Olympic champion and the record books will show it."

Muehlelegg, who failed a second dope test on Tuesday, has only been ordered to hand back one of his gold medals – for Saturday's 50km.

The International Olympic Committee have no power to seize the gongs given out for the 10km and 30km events because they took place before he was tested.

But Muehlelegg will face a two-year ban if the positive results for blood booster darbepoetin are upheld.

If that happens, he might still get a call to compete in the Other World Championships, due to be held on Mars in July.

LOCHSIDE VIDEO FOOTAGE SHORTENS ODDS ON NESSIE (James Doherty, The Scotsman, 12 Mar 2002)

THE odds on hard evidence proving the existence of a monster in Loch Ness shortened yesterday, with the announcement that a new video revealed something lurking in the depths.

Bobbie Pollock, a postman from Glasgow, claimed the footage he shot could hold the key in debunking the cynics who say Nessie is nothing more than a marketing myth.

The three-and-a-half minute video was made by Mr Pollock, 45, as he walked at Invermoriston Bay with his wife, Catherine, 41, and son Robert, three.

Mr Pollock claims he saw a black creature rise about 5ft out of the loch.

The video has won him £500 from the bookmaker William Hill for the best recent Nessie "sighting". The Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club administers the annual award on behalf of the bookies.

Mr Pollock said: "We stopped at a place called the stone seat overlooking Invermoriston Bay for our lunch and I saw an object floating on top of the water and it started moving off towards Fort Augustus at quite a pace."

He added: "You could say that it was a seal or a deer in the water, but I've seen things like

that in the water and it definitely wasn't one of them.

"I've never seen anything like this in 12 years."

Mark Stewart, the curator of marine mammals at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary in Oban, Argyll, studied the video 30 times.

He said: "Sometimes it looked like a seal, sometimes it did not look anything like a seal. It was moving quickly - I felt too quick for a seal"

It emerged that Mr Pollock did not release the footage, shot in August 2000, sooner because he "feared ridicule".

Odds on definite proof of Nessie's existence have now been cut from 500-1 to 250-1.

Despite scientific searches, sonar sweeps and countless sightings, the only real certainties which perpetuate are the lucrative tourist spin-offs the fabled monster has spawned.

MONK'S CURSE HANGS OVER STEELWORKS

(23 March, 2002)

Fears of invoking the wrath of an angry Cistercian monk have prompted south Wales steelworkers to preserve a cursed 800-year-old wall.

An essential job of apprentices at the Corus steel plant in Port Talbot is ensuring a 20ft wall on the site does not fall down in case they invoke a 16th century curse.

According to local tradition, a monk forced to leave Margam Abbey when King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries told new owner Sir Rice Mansel that, if this wall was destroyed, everything in the vicinity would fall with it.

None of the successive owners from the Mansels to the Talbots or today's modern steel company have dared let the wall crumble in case the curse comes true.

The monk aimed to prevent Mansel from breaking up the Abbey after the monks were ousted.

Corus spokesman Simon Jenkins said the main reason for keeping the wall standing was to preserve local heritage.

However he admitted that nobody was keen to find out what would happen if they challenged the long-standing superstition.

"It's quite strange to have an 800-year-old wall within a hi-tech steel plant," commented Mr Jenkins.

"We're not superstitious, but we like to hedge our bets."

He added that the curse was attributed locally to the "Red Monk", a ghostly figure in a red habit reportedly seen on a regular basis by workers at the site.

I remember when I started work 10 years ago being told there was a ghost at the Margam end of the site.

"I used to have to pass the wall when I worked nights and it scared the heck out of me."

The 20ft long wall, which formed part of the outer edge of the abbey, lies on the eastern end of the three-mile Corus site next to the rolling mill.

Visitors to the plant including school parties can see the wall and hear its history as well as learning about the industrial processes taking place in its shadow.

The plant is currently celebrating its centenary with a special exhibition, which traces the history of steel-making in the area.

As well as praying and cursing, the long-exiled monks also took advantage of the area's resources to produce iron.

COMET TO BE VISIBLE WITH THE NAKED EYE LATE MARCH/APRIL

A comet discovered by astronomers this year and heading past the Earth later this month will be bright enough to see with the naked eye.

Comet Ikeya-Zhang, named after the Japanese and Chinese astronomers who first spotted it on February 1, will be the brightest comet to make an appearance since Hale-Bopp in 1997.

During the second half of March and the first half of April, it will brighten rapidly to a point where it should be visible to the naked eye as a faint smudge in the western sky.

A TYPICAL NIGHT'S WORK

By Dave Baker

I received the following case via e-mail a couple of weeks ago, and although completely run-of-the-mill, I thought I would include it to prove a) that we *do* receive sighting reports, and b) that the majority of them are easily explained.

"The following account is of what I witnessed on Tuesday 22nd January 2002.

"At 12.30 am I observed a round spherical object which I can only describe as being of a similar appearance to a planet or large star. The object was clearly darting rapidly in all directions before returning each time to a brief stationery position in the same fixed spot on the skyline. At this time I could see a sort of fuzzy electrical type charge surrounding the object. The object itself continuously alternated between a sharp/intense and hazy glow (like a dimmer switch being operated)

"Then the object just vanished, I did not see it accelerate into space or anything, it was just there one second and gone the next. I watched the object for between 3-4 minutes and it seemed to be positioned over the Loxley Common Sheffield 6 area, directly in front of my house where I viewed it from the stair window on the upper floor. I would welcome any possible information on this or similar sightings

Regards

M.K. (Full name with-held by YUFOS)

It has often been my experience that UFO witnesses answer the mystery themselves.

M.K. describes the object as "of a similar appearance to a planet or large star", and considers that what he saw could not be such a body because of its movement. Obviously, stars and planets do not move around the sky...

However, under certain conditions, stars can *appear* to oscillate, "dart around", bob up and down, move closer and further away, spin, zig-zag and strobe different colours of the spectrum. This is largely due to atmospheric distortion, but autokenesis – the minute movements of the eye, which can create the

illusion that a distant, stationary object with no real point of reference – can also play a part.

It is also extremely difficult to estimate the distance of an object. MK's belief that the object was positioned over Loxley Common is probably misinterpretation. A common misconception is that if an object appears "large", it must be close, and something small must be far away.

Obviously, my first task was to discover if there were any suitable astronomical candidates in the sky at the time and location. Although I e-mailed MK for further details of direction and weather conditions etc, I received no reply¹ and so, to satisfy my own curiosity more than anything else, I resorted to consulting a simple A-Z of Sheffield street atlas.

If the witness was observing the object from his home (address supplied but withheld) and the object appeared to be hovering over Loxley Common, the witnesses had to be looking in a south-westerly direction. Was there anything in the sky at the time, which could account for this phenomenon?

I then consulted Darren Swindells of the Sheffield Astronomical Society, who, as usual, was more than happy to help. Darren consulted an excellent software programme called Skymap Pro 7 (now used by YUFOS, and highly recommended). This star-chart utility can be programmed to accept hundreds of locations (Sheffield included), and any date, and presents a view of the sky from North, South, East and West.

Darren reported that:

"Sirius was low on the horizon at that time. It's quite bright and had an altitude of +3° 59' 34" and an Azimuth of 235° 2' 42" (Measuring from North around past East) so it would have been South West.

"Saturn was a little fainter and higher up at Altitude: 14° 11' 13" Azimuth: 284° 36' 51"

¹ In my initial correspondence, I had suggested that a star might indeed be the cause. Perhaps MK was no longer interested when I did not tell him what planet his spaceship came from...

West-North-West. I would go for it being Sirius. At 4° altitude it would be twinkling madly and looking quite hairy. If there was some light mist there may also have been a slight glow around it."

Considering that MK was observing his "UFO" through a window, refraction could also have added to the illusion.

It is common practice in such cases to ask the witness if they noticed any bright stars, or the moon in that particular area of sky at the same

time as they witnessed their UFO. If they describe the astronomical body as being visible *as well* as the UFO, then the two may be separate. But if they report no stars or moon, when we know for a fact that they were there, we can safely assume that what the witness saw was not a UFO, but a star or other such astronomical body.

Bearing all this in mind, I have no doubts that the object MK witnessed can be taken from the category UFO, and placed firmly as an IFO – an "identified flying object".

ASKIN' BOLLOXINSKI

With the USA's most maverick Investigator of the Unexplained, Tom Bolloxinski

Dear Tom,

Your article in last month's *Project Red Book* concerning Mysterious Black Helicopters was fascinating. I am very interested in MBH, but there has been much debate in conspiracy / UFO / Animal Mutilation / Jan Michael-Vincent fan-site circles that "complete silence" is impossible.

What do you think?

R.Scheider, California

I don't think. *I know*. And what I know, is that such technology is not only possible, but is in use within the Secret Military, and has been for some time.

Some people have suggested that this stealth ability is created by directing a *reversed* "anti-phase" sound-field at the sounds of the rotor blades, which in effect "cancels out" the rotor noise. However, in my opinion, this is absurdist science fiction nonsense, and the truth is actually much more simple, yet incredibly complicated.

One of my many sources in this area of Black Technology is "Bud", an engineer at Sandia Labs, and –at much risk to his personal safety– he revealed to me the secret behind this 'unbelievable' stealth capability. Boffins at the labs produced a highly advanced digital recording within a completely sound-proofed chamber, a recording of complete and absolute silence: indeed, the uttermost *absence* of sound.

Hi-tech Dolby digital 5.1 tape systems are installed within all Stealth Helicopters, and during clandestine operations a copy of the aforementioned tape is blasted at high decibel levels through incredibly powerful and sophisticated speakers built into the copters' hull. This "silent recording" is so overpowering that it effectively drowns out any and all other sounds from the helicopter, enveloping the aircraft in a veritable cocoon of *absolute silence*.

You've all heard the phrase, "the silence was deafening"?

Well that was where they got the idea from.

Dear Tom,

I know that you spent Easter here in England with editor Dave Baker and his family, but who looked after your iguana, Poppet, then?

Nikki Wright, (YUFOS), England

This some sort of test, Nikki? It's common knowledge that, as a globe-trotting researcher, I spend most of my time away from my apartment in Greenwich Village, New York.

During these soursjourns, I leave Poppet with Serge, my neighbour across the hall. He's this caftan-wearing, be-bearded, mystic-new-ager, a bit weird (even by my standards), who looks like a cross between Dom deLouise and Liberace. He reckons he can cure ailments through tea-leaves and read the future in

crystals, (no- *really*) and he puts rich little old ladies in contact with their dear departed pets; usually pink poodles or spoiled siamese dressed in cocktail dresses. Personally, I think the poor little bastards are glad to be rid of the mad old bats, but when Serge enters his trance and yips like a pekenese, those ladies are ready to sign their life savings away. And often do.

Serge also claims that his Spirit Guide is the dog Rebel, from *Champion the Wonder Horse*, and that he shares his apartment with the ghost of Dean Martin, but I reckon that's just an excuse for all the empty bottles of JD.

Anyway, he feeds "The Popster" his crickets and Kentucky Fried Maggots on time, and cleans out his tank, so he's fine by me.

And who knows? Maybe he *does* share with Dean's ghost...sometimes, on particularly cold nights, when even Greenwich Village is sleeping, I hear the discordant sounds of "Little Ol' Wine Drinker, Me" drifting eerily from beneath Serge's door...and he claims he *doesn't even own the record*...

Mark Martin, (YUFOS), Sheffield, England asks

Dear Tom

I have a question, which I believe can only be answered by a Ufologist of your stature.

This question concerns theoretical and subatomic physics. During the search for Albert Einstein's 'Theory of Everything' the worlds' best brains have developed numerous theories of particle physics, within so called Quantum Field Theory. (As you are no doubt aware Tom, QFT gives us the tools to build theories consistent with quantum mechanics and the special theory of relativity). In the recent past String Theory has been very popular. The first of which was Bosonic String Theory (which is unacceptable as it does not describe Fermions). Eventually 5 String theories emerged, 3 Super String Theories and 2, more advanced Heterotic String Theories. Obviously Tom, these all worked on the principle of there being a total of 10 space-time dimensions.

Recently a new, fantastically exciting, theory has emerged—"M-Theory." This unites the 5 string theories by introducing another dimension, to bring the total to 11

(Incidentally Tom, I believe I remember you explaining during a web conference, that the extra dimensions are, in fact, wrapped up on mathematical elaborations known as Calabi-Yan Manifolds and Orbifolds).

Tom, bearing this in mind do you think it is possible (even probable) that UFO entities are in fact not merely Extraterrestrial, but Ultraterrestrial and even Extradimensional and Ultradimensional?

Yes.

Dear Tom-

Seriously though, I was hoping someone would ask me exactly this question.

Of course I am aware of all this. In fact, this hypothesis was revealed exclusively to me about ten years ago, by a 126-year-old Tibetan Priest at the secret Himalayan Temple of *Tanwa-Amwa-Ni!*, or, 'That Place of Which Few Men Shall Know'.

The notion of other time-frames, dimensions, even other realities, is an intriguing one, and one which I hope to explore in an upcoming book. Mostly, this hypothesis is used to imagine *ourselves* passing into an alternate, mirror-universe where history has taken a markedly different turn; the Nazis won WWII, the industrial revolution never took place, or a DNA-specific virus wiped out all Boy Bands.

The Ultra/Extra-dimensional Entity theory follows that *they* are visiting *us*, and can explain much of the contradictions from UFO/Entity reports. These beings can appear as anything they wish, or even as *we* wish. A witness would 'see' what they expected, or were even afraid, to see.

So, a witness of a Catholic faith may believe that they see a hideous, demonic being, a New-Ager may perceive a beautiful blonde Nordic, a follower of conspiracies, a sinister Man-in-Black, and Calista Flockhart, a walking bag of French-Fries.

Of course, my friend John Keel, postulated that this 'other time/dimension/reality' explained just why 'UFO' entities acted so strangely and erratically: bizarre dress sense, a lack of understanding of even the simplest concepts or objects, difficulty in walking, eerie speech patterns, and pale, malnourished appearance. John termed them Ultraterrestrials, but today, we call them 'Super-Models'...

Anyway, that's it for this month. Keep the letters coming, keep watching the skies, and remember - Don't have nightmares...I've just been *Talkin' Bolloxinski*.

'ALIEN AUTOPSY': THE ORIGIN REVEALED?

By James Easton

As first mentioned on the 'UFO Research List' [UFORL], I recently came across the following:

<http://www.mhvf.net/forum/scifihorror/posts/124218244.html>

'Don's FANTASIA Diary 7-26-2001'

"Because of the dinner, we all skipped the 7:45pm showing of FUCCON FAMILY (it's playing again later) and went to Club 300 to keep getting tanked on more beer. About a half hour after we sat down, Olaf Ittenbach, director of tonight's LEGION OF THE DEAD joined us for a few pitchers. The beer kept on pouring and we had a good time. We had to get Olaf completely plastered to get ready for his film's premiere, of course! I found out that, a few years ago, some wacko actually held everyone hostage at Club 300 and finally shot himself. It's a great place to drink! Also, this might be of interest to some... remember the 'Alien Autopsy' craze a few years ago? Remember the Fox special that actually interviewed Nacho Cerda about the similarities between his film AFTERMATH and the 'autopsy' video? Well, here is a surprise. Olaf admitted (I guess he can now that the contact he had was so old) that HE was the one who helped create that damn video! The truth is revealed!

He went into great detail about how they faked the film stock, etc. and said that he did it because they paid him a LOT of money to do it. So, there you have it, folks! Olaf Ittenbach, director of PREMUTOS and LEGION OF THE DEAD is the bad boy behind that controversy.

We talked briefly about the Stan Winston interview and about how Winston was saying the autopsy was too real to be faked. All Olaf said was that they probably gave him LOTS of money to do the interview!" [END]

A key figure in the 'alien autopsy' story was of course Volker Spielberg, a fellow German and 'music publisher' who allegedly funded Ray Santilli's acquisition from the 'Roswell cameraman' and statedly owned the 'film reels'.

I'm not familiar with Ittenbach, however, a

cursory research of his 'blood and gore' films does suggest an 'alien autopsy' would be consistent with the genre and his interest in 'special effects' - see:

<http://www.legionthemovie.com/legionolaf.html>

As for the claim "they faked the film stock", that's disconcerting as no 16mm 'alien autopsy' film stock was ever made available, aside from those few frames with anomalous images which didn't appear within the footage.

However, his 1997 film, 'Premutos', was shot on 16mm.

Although the author, Don May, has been of assistance, it seems there was indeed, "a LOT of pitchers of beer" drunk that night and recollections are a bit hazy!

However, Don has suggested how Ittenbach can be contacted and I've followed that up.

For a number of reasons, I would be more than a little surprised if Ittenbach was responsible for creating the 'alien autopsy'.

Only Ittenbach can fully resolve whether he did take credit for the original footage and if that was in fact a justified claim. Incidentally, I see that rumours of his connection were actually being circulated before the apparent July, 2001 confession to Don May and others: "Also, rumour has it that Ittenbach was responsible for the infamous Alien Autopsy footage...":

<http://www.vidjunkie.com/barebones/archive.htm>

However, there may be significant misunderstandings within Don's account of the inebriated anecdotes and I might have pieced together the true story of Ittenbach's involvement. I've discovered he was certainly a 'player' in those early days and why the rumour, even if untrue, could easily have surfaced in later years.

I'll explain more in due course.

[END OF EXTRACT]

I'm now able to do so within this newsletter.

During 1995 [when the footage was first broadcast after world-wide distribution rights had been sold], the film and encompassing 'Roswell cameraman' story featured in a documentary by 'STERN TV', a German news magazine program on the RTL channel ['stern' is apparently German for 'star'].

My files contain the review from a friend in Germany, who reports that the STERN TV broadcast was called, 'How to Make an Alien' and they staged their own 'alien autopsy' for comparison. It was created by "one SFX man and 5 students (physician) in five weeks".

I've located online the confirmation that Ittenbach's credits include:

1996 Roswell Alien Stern TV 16 mm, 20 min
1996 Roswell Alien Report Video, 15 min

See:

<http://www.splatter.de/fgrafie.html>

Although the year doesn't equate, I'm assuming it's an error and should relate to 1995, when Ittenbach had been contracted to show how an 'alien autopsy' could, inherently, be faked.

I have no record - during thoroughly documented 1996 developments - of any STERN TV interest during that year and certainly not an attempted 'alien autopsy' recreation, which would surely have been widely noted.

If these assumptions are correct, then Ittenbach's 1995 'alien autopsy' did not receive favourable reviews from some who subsequently viewed the 'RTL footage'!

Although Don May, President of 'Synapse Films', is now aware of Ittenbach's resultant 'alien autopsy' spoof, he remains of the opinion that Ittenbach was acknowledging he created the 'alien autopsy' footage promoted by Ray Santilli.

Despite considerable efforts by myself and others to contact Ittenbach, he has not as yet clarified matters.

Ray Santilli, who claimed to have bought film of an alien dissection from the 'Roswell' cameraman, wrote to me, "It's complete crap. I have never heard of the guy".

I suspect Ray to be correct and the explanation is as revealed here.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PROJECT RED BOOK

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN KEEL

Republished from classic magazine 'UFO Brigantia', Andy Roberts talks to the author of 'The Mothman Prophecies' during his 1992 visit to Sheffield.

THE JENNY RANGLES COLUMN

THE "GULF WAR UFO": SHOT DOWN IN FLAMES?

Did a UFO "buzz" allied troops days prior to 'Desert Storm'? Dave Baker with an update -and a conclusion?-on the classic YUFOS report from 1998.

AUSTRALIAN UFOS PT 4:

Bill Chalker concludes his history of early Australian UFO encounters, with cases of Military investigations, abductions, and sightings of small entities.

Plus

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

TOM BOLLOXINSKI

And more...